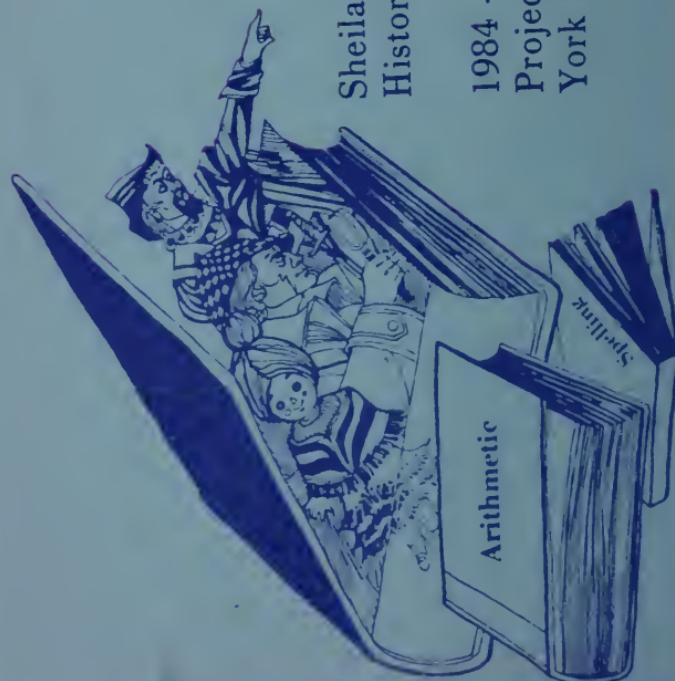




THE AMBITIOUS COURIER

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SIR WALTER RALEIGH,

THE AMBITIOUS COURTIER.

“ Raleigh! the scourge of Spain! whose breast with all
The sage, the patriot, and the hero, burn’d;
Nor sunk his vigour when a coward reign’d
The warrior fetter’d, and at last resign’d,
To glut the vengeance of a vanquish’d foe.
Then active still, and unrestrain’d his mind,
Explored the vast extent of ages past,
And with his prison hours enriched the world;
Yet found no times in all his long research,
So glorious or so base as those he proved
In which he conquer’d, and in which he bled.”

THOMPSON.

THE parish of East Budleigh, in North Devon, is situate near to the mouth of the river Otter, and fourteen miles east of the ancient city of Exeter. It has but one object of interest, but that one is sufficient to redeem it from the partial oblivion into which it is commonly cast by the compilers of gazetteers. It contains the farm of which Walter Raleigh, Esq. the father of the celebrated knight of the same name, had the remainder of an eighty

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year's lease. The house has undergone many alterations during the last three centuries, and it now presents but very few particularly striking characteristics of its high antiquity. A table, clumsily carved on its sides and legs, is the only piece of furniture in it which appears to date from the Elizabethan period. Tradition, however, that garrulous and oft-times intelligent old gossip, points out the very room in which, in the year 1552, Sir Walter Raleigh was born. In vain you ask for historical evidence of her accuracy: she has none to give, so you must take her word for it, or content yourself with the well authenticated fact that our hero was born in that very house, if not in that very room.

The parish register of East Budleigh is one of the oldest in England; it is in excellent preservation, but, unfortunately for the antiquarian, its earliest entry pertains to 1555, three years subsequent to the birth of Raleigh. We are not aware that a more definite date than the year 1552 can be given for his birth. But as for three hundred years no great inconvenience has been felt from the circumstance, it will not seriously affect us, or lovers of biography in future generations.

We observed that East Budleigh has but one object of historical interest. This is not quite correct; it has two, at the least. The second is the oaken pew which belonged to the Raleigh family; it is in the parish church of All Saints, and still belongs to Hayes Farm, now the property of Lord Rolle.

THE RALEIGH FAMILY.

The exterior of the pew is ornamented by ancient carved work, among which are the arms of Sir Walter's grandfather, Wymond Raleigh, quartering those of his wife, Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Grenville, knight. The date, "1534," appears on an adjoining panel.

Sir Walter's mother was his father's third wife; her name was Catherine, and she was the daughter of Sir Philip Champernoun, of Modbury.

The Raleigh family was an ancient one, and the name has been, and still is, variously pronounced, and still more variously written. The oldest form of its orthography is, perhaps, Rale; the most modern, and the one now usually adopted, is Raleigh; the intermediate forms being Ralega, Ralegh, and Rauleigh. Sir Walter spelt it Ralegh, and Rauleigh appears to represent the most general pronunciation of the name at the present period.

When Raleigh was about sixteen years of age, he entered the university of Oxford. He remained there but three years, and during that time he was a commoner both at Oriel and Christ Church.

Whilst he was at Oxford, it happened that one of his fellow-students, who was a great coward, but a very good archer, received an insult. He told Raleigh the particulars, and asked how he should resent it. Raleigh's answer was, "Challenge him to a match of shooting."

About the year 1570, his maternal uncle, Henry Champernoun, received royal permission to raise a

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troop of a hundred gentlemen volunteers, to aid the Huguenots in France. Young Raleigh gladly availed himself of the opportunity to engage in military enterprise; and, as Hooker says, he spent in France "a good part of his youth in wars and military services." He remained in France about five years. He was, therefore, there on the memorable night of St. Bartholomew's. He and Sir Philip Sidney are supposed to have escaped through the influence of Sir Francis Walsingham, who was then the English ambassador at Paris, and in whose house they took refuge.

According to some of his biographers, he became, on his return to England, in 1575, a student in the Middle Temple. It is certain that he soon relinquished his studies, if indeed he ever studied for the law. In 1577, Queen Elizabeth entered into an alliance with the States of Holland, and agreed to assist them with money and men. The English auxiliary was under the command of Sir John Norreys, and Raleigh served under him in the Netherlands for about a year.

Sir Humphrey Gilbert was Raleigh's half-brother, and thirteen years his senior. He obtained, in 1578, a patent from the queen to take possession of all unappropriated land on the northern coast of America, and all land that he might discover on his explorations. It was with great difficulty that he could prevail on others to take part in the adventure. Raleigh was amongst the number who joined him.

HIS GALLANTRY TO THE QUEEN.

The expedition was a fruitless one: having sailed as far as Newfoundland, it returned to England in 1578. In the following year, Raleigh distinguished himself more by bravery than humanity in assisting in quelling the rebellion which had broken out in the province of Munster, then under the governorship of the Earl of Ormond.

In 1582, Raleigh returned to England. His noble appearance, agreeable manners, and rare intellectual attainments, no less than his distinguished services, ensured him a favorable reception at court.

It was not long before an opportunity offered for him to prove at once his gallantry and his attachment to the person of his sovereign. The queen was taking a walk for the benefit of the air—so the story goes—and she came to a very muddy part, and hesitated about proceeding. Raleigh, who had on a new and very rich plush cloak, immediately took it off and spread it over the mud, as a footcloth for the royal pedestrian. It is said that the queen trod as gently as possible over it, and soon rewarded the sacrifice of the cloak by the present of a rich suit.

Raleigh received two appointments from the queen in 1583; the first was to attend Simier, the agent of the Duke of Anjou; the second was to attend the duke himself to Antwerp, of which he was governor. This was a distinguished honor, as at that time it was supposed that Elizabeth would accept the duke as her consort.

On Raleigh's return from Antwerp, in the same

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year, he found Sir Humphrey Gilbert preparing for a similar expedition to that which he conducted five years previously, and he readily consented to join it. There were five ships. After they had been out at sea a few days, a virulent fever broke out on board the largest vessel, and Raleigh brought it again into Plymouth harbour, whilst Gilbert proceeded with the other ships to Newfoundland, where, on the 5th of August, he took formal possession of St. John's, and founded the first British colony. He never returned to his native land. His largest vessel having been lost in a storm, he was proceeding homeward in a small sloop, in which he had braved many dangers; when, on the night of the 9th of September, she foundered in a tempestuous sea, and the brave Sir Humphrey perished, with all his crew.

This misfortune did not damp the ardour of Raleigh for voyages of discovery. At his own expense he fitted out two vessels, which he despatched under the command of Captains Barlowe and Amidas. They sailed on the 27th of April; after having captured Virginia and Carolina, they returned to England; and on the return of Raleigh from his first personal visit to Virginia, the queen conferred on him the honor of knighthood. Virginia was so named in compliment to the virgin queen. The natives called it Wingadacea.

It was also in the year 1584, that Raleigh was elected to represent his native county in Parliament; and shortly afterwards he was made lord warden of

HIS DESIRE TO PURCHASE HAYES FARM.

the stannaries, and also captain of the queen's guard. He obtained a grant of five thousand acres of land in the counties of Cork and Waterford.

It is pleasant to find that the rapid and great accession of wealth and honors did not make him forgetful of the scenes of his childhood. Who can read the following letter without sympathizing with the writer, and regretting that it did not obtain the desired result?

“MR. DUKE,—I wrote to Mr. Prideaux, to move you for the purchase of Hayes, a farm sometime in my father's possession. I will most willingly give whatever in your conscience you deem it worth: and if at any time you shall have occasion to use me, you shall find me a thankful friend to you and yours. I am resolved, if I cannot entreat you to build at Colleton, but for the natural disposition I have to that place, *being borne in that house, I had rather seate myself there than any where els. I take my leave, readie to countervaile all your courtesies to the utter of my power.*

“Court, y^e xxvi of July, 1584.”

In the portion which we have *Italicised*, we retain the original orthography. Early in the present century, the original letter was to be seen at Otterton House. We are not sure whether it is still in existence.

In 1586, Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, fitted out a few ships, and Sir Walter Raleigh accompanied him

in an expedition in which they considerably damaged the Portuguese trade in the South Seas.

Early in the following year, the colonization of Virginia engaged Raleigh's attention. Under his directions, on the 26th of April, John White, with a hundred and fifty persons, in three vessels, left Portsmouth for Virginia. The first Christian child born in the new colony was a girl. She was the daughter of Ananias and Eleanor Dare, and the grand-daughter, by the maternal side, of the governor. She was born on the 18th of August, and named Virginia.

Raleigh, in 1590, conducted, personally, a successful cruise against the Spaniards in the West Indies. His fleet consisted of two of the queen's men-of-war and thirteen other vessels, which he equipped chiefly at his own expense.

On the 27th of January, 1591, the queen granted Raleigh a ninety-nine years' lease of Sherborne, Dorsetshire, at a rental of £200 16s. 1d. Nine days previously the manor pertained to the see of Salisbury, and the transfer was considered to be so sacrilegious that those who were envious of Raleigh's increasing greatness, did not scruple to stigmatize him as an atheist. Sherborne castle, the present manorial residence of the Earl of Digby, was erected by Raleigh.

The possession of Sherborne by any layman would have been considered impious by the high-churchmen, but it was most mortifying to their party to see it in the possession of one who was most zealous in opposing the persecuting and arbitrary measures against

AN EXPEDITION TO GUIANA.

the Romanists on the one hand, and Nonconformists of various sects on the other.

Shortly after he obtained the grant of Sherborne, he incurred the royal displeasure by the manner in which he paid his addresses to Elizabeth Throckmorton, one of the ladies of the bed-chamber. On the 31st of July, 1592, Sir Walter and his “ladye-love” were imprisoned in the Tower, the queen having discovered that they had committed matrimony, an offence which the maiden queen invariably punished when she could, and especially if the high contracting parties were courtiers. The happy couple were soon liberated, but it was some years ere Raleigh regained the favor of the queen. His first great and successful effort to effect so desirable an object, was the fitting-up, at his own expense, a fleet of five ships, with which he undertook an expedition to Guiana. He destroyed San Joseph, the capital of Trinidad. This was in 1595, the year in which the expedition of Drake and Hawkins against the Spanish West Indies failed, although their fleet consisted of twenty-six ships, with troops under command of Sir Thomas Baskerville.

Raleigh's exaggerated account of the wealth, and resources, and wonders of Guiana, did not induce the cautious queen to further his views of conquering it, and adding it to her dominions; but she rewarded his bravery by appointing him to the command of the fourth squadron of the celebrated Cadiz fleet, in 1596. This fleet finally left Plymouth on the 3rd of

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June. Had it not been for the consummate skill of Raleigh, our fleet and army, instead of gaining a brilliant victory and capturing Cadiz, might have sustained a signal defeat.

So many conflicting accounts have been written about the capture of Cadiz, that it is impossible to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to whom the chief merit is due; but all agree that Raleigh led the fleet into action, and contributed greatly to the success of the expedition. In one engagement, he received a wound in the leg, in consequence of which he was confined to his ship. This seems to have annoyed him chiefly because it prevented him from “feathering his nest” to the extent he desired by the plunder of Cadiz. His complaint that he had “nought but poverty and pain” from the capture of the city, was certainly groundless. From his own admission to the Commissioners appointed by the queen to search the ships on their return to Plymouth, his share of the plunder was worth £1769. Two others, Sir Francis Vere and Sir Conyers Clifford, had shares more valuable, each being worth upwards of £3000. The commanders of the other squadrons, namely, the Earl of Essex, the Lord Admiral, and Lord Thomas Howard, thought more of glory than of pillage. So far from enriching themselves, they seem to have incurred considerable pecuniary loss by the Cadiz expedition.

From a letter of the Earl of Essex to Anthony Bacon, it appears that Lord Thomas Howard had, in

SURRENDER OF CADIZ.

the castle of Cadiz, “a house which was reputed of equal value with any, and was sued for by Sir Walter Raleigh most earnestly;” and from another letter written by the wife of Lord Thomas, that until “the queen claimed all,” it was arranged that her husband “should have for his part five thousand pounds, and Sir Walter Raleigh three.” There is, however, no evidence to shew that the queen seized the prizes found in the possession of the pillagers by the Plymouth Commissioners.

On the Sunday after the surrender of Cadiz, divine service was performed by the victors in its principal church; the sermon was preached by the chaplain of the Earl of Essex, “Master Hopkins, a man of good learning, and sweet utterance.” When the service was concluded, the Lord Admiral, who was chief of the forces by sea, and the Earl of Essex, who had the pre-eminent command of the land forces, created knights. No fewer than sixty-three individuals were knighted. This liberality on the part of the generals was displeasing to the queen, and occasioned much jealousy and ridicule in England. Amongst the squibs published at the time, the following had become famous :

A gentleman of Wales,
With knight of Cales, (Calais)
And a lord of the north countrie,
A yeoman of Kent,
Upon a rack’t rent,
Will buy them out all three.

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One of the sixty-three who were knighted was Arthur Throckmorton, the brother-in-law of Raleigh. Another was Anthony Ashley, a friend of Throckmorton's.

Ashley was the first to give an account of the expedition to Elizabeth's council: from his version it appeared that all the merit of success was due to Raleigh and the sea service. The secretary, Sir Robert Cecil, was no friend to the Earl of Essex, and he and the Council drew up, from Ashley's statements, an account of the capture of Cadiz. This was published, and, shortly afterwards, the Essex party prepared for publication "A true relation of the action of Cadiz, under the Earl of Essex and the Lord Admiral; sent to a gentleman at court, from one that served there in a good place." But their design was thwarted by Ashley. He had been made acquainted with their intention, and he informed the Council, who immediately issued a prohibition to all printers from publishing any account except by special permission.

But for one untoward circumstance, Raleigh might at this time have regained the favor of the queen. After the capture of Cadiz, Essex proposed that the fleet should put to sea, and endeavour to intercept the Spanish homeward-bound West Indian fleet. This was strenuously and successfully opposed by Raleigh, whose judgment guided others. The English fleet had not returned a month, when the news reached England that only two days after the proposal of

AN EXPEDITION AGAINST SPAIN.

Essex and Lord Thomas Howard was negatived, the Spanish West Indian fleet entered the Tagus with twenty millions of ducats. The loss of such a prize irritated the queen greatly, and she vented her wrath on those on whom she was but a few days before disposed to lavish honors. Bacon, in one of his letters on the subject, wrote, “‘*Necesse est*,’ said our Saviour, ‘*ut scandala evenient sed vae illis per quos.*’* Sir Walter Raleigh has enough of these *vae’s* laid upon him for having dissuaded my Lord Admiral from joining with my Lord of Essex, and persuaded an untimely, unlucky, and most dishonorable return.”

This was in September, 1596. In the following February, Sir Walter Raleigh was successful in effecting a reconciliation between the Earl of Essex and Sir Robert Cecil. This paved the way for his own reinstatement in the royal favor. In June, Raleigh was admitted into the royal presence. He was also restored to the command of the yeoman guard, which, since his marriage, he had not been permitted to exercise. Active preparations were being made for another expedition against Spain. The command was given to the Earl of Essex. Lord Thomas Howard was appointed vice-admiral, Sir Walter Raleigh, rear-admiral. The armament, which was victualled for four months, consisted of one hundred and twenty ships, with ten pieces of artillery, and six

* “It needs be that offences will come, but *vae* (*vce*) to him through whom they come.”

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thousand men. It put to sea on the 10th of July, but it was so shattered by a storm that it was obliged to put back. Sir Walter, in a letter to Cecil, dated July 18th, says "In my ship it hath shaken all her beams, knees, and stanchions asunder, inasmuch that on Saturday night, we made account to have yielded our souls up to God,—our ship so open every-where, all her bulwarks rent, her very cook-room of brick shaken down into powder." The fleet was not ready to put to sea again until the middle of August. The expedition was a most unfortunate one. There is no doubt that the little glory which resulted from it was achieved by Raleigh, but under circumstances which, if the accounts of some be correct, reflect little credit on Raleigh's generosity of disposition. Whether he designedly stole a march on the Earl of Essex, or whether, as he and his friends state, he waited for two days for Essex before he would attack Fayal, cannot be ascertained ; Fayal was captured by Raleigh ; and so mortified were Essex and other officers, that they had not taken part in the attack, that Raleigh was called upon to answer for his conduct before a council of officers. He was told that it was directly and expressly forbidden, upon pain of death, to land forces without order from the general. To this he replied, that as he was one of the principal commanders, the orders did not apply to him. Essex was advised to have Raleigh tried by a court martial, "That" said Essex, "would I do, were he my friend." It is certain that some of the followers of the Earl of Essex

APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF JERSEY.

did all they could to prejudice him against Raleigh, consequently the worst construction was put upon every movement of the rear-admiral.

That Raleigh had bitter enemies among his colleagues, is certain, but it is no less certain that he had powerful friends at Court. Cecil was in himself a host. One of the principal charges against the Earl of Essex by the queen, on his return to England, was his oppression of Sir Walter Raleigh. As it was mainly through Raleigh's influence that on the 18th of December, 1597, Essex was created, by patent, Earl Marshal of England, we may presume that they had contrived to adjust their differences speedily. Raleigh, Essex, and Cecil, were on friendly terms with each other in January, 1598, and this occasioned surprise. In the summer of that year, the Earl of Essex quitted the Court, after having received a box on the ears from the queen, in consequence of his rude behaviour towards her. It has been generally supposed that Robert Dudley, the celebrated Earl of Leicester, introduced the Earl of Essex to Court as a counterpoise to the influence of Raleigh, of whom he was particularly jealous. The absence of Essex from Court did not hinder, if it did not promote, the advancement of Raleigh. In the year 1600 he was appointed governor of Jersey.

Immediately after the first examination of Essex by the Council, on his sudden return from Ireland, in September, 1599, Raleigh openly sided with the Cecil party, but he was not in England at the time of the

trial at York House in June. A private letter of this period, dated June 9th, informs us “ Raleigh is gone into the country, with bag and baggage, as wife and children ; and Her Majesty called him worse than cat and dog.”

Raleigh was one of the witnesses against the Earl of Essex at his last trial, February 19th, 1601. When he was called and sworn, Essex exclaimed “ What booteth it to swear this fox ? ” The most ardent admirers of Raleigh find it difficult to make his conduct in the matter of the Earl of Essex, appear worthy of him, or like that of a noble-minded man. Neither he nor his royal mistress regained popularity after the death of Essex. He retired as much as he could into private life, and spent his time in literary pursuits, and in cultivating the acquaintanceship of literary men. Amongst his personal friends were Shakspere, Ben Johnson, Beaumont, and Fletcher.

Queen Elizabeth died on the 24th of March, 1603, and James VI. of Scotland hastened to take possession of the vacant throne. He was a great friend of the late Earl of Essex, and he shared in the popular prejudice against Raleigh. Shortly after his accession, Sir Walter was deprived of his office of captain of the yeoman guard, and of the wardenship of the stannaries. Not content with these tokens of ill-favor James contrived to drive him from Court entirely.

In the summer, a report was spread about that Raleigh was at the head of a conspiracy to dethrone James, and make the lady Arabella Stuart queen.

HIS TRIAL.

Raleigh and his colleagues were imprisoned in the Tower in July. The plague was then raging so fearfully in London, that it was deserted by the Court and by the judges. It was ultimately resolved that the conspirators should be tried at Winchester, to which city they were removed in November. Sir William Waad writes thus, on the 13th of November, to Cecil, "I thank God, we brought all our prisoners safely hither yesternight, in good time; and yet I protest it was hob or nob whether Sir Walter Raleigh should have been brought alive through such multitudes of unruly people as did exclaim against him. We took the best order we could in setting watches through all the streets, both in London and for the suburbs. If one hair-brained fellow among so great multitudes had set upon him (as they were very near to do it), no entreaty or means could have prevailed, the fury of the people was so great."

The trial commenced on the 17th of November. The chief witness against Raleigh was the dastardly Lord Cobham, who afterwards retracted the most material parts of his evidence.

Raleigh was charged with having conspired to dethrone the king, to introduce the Roman Catholic religion into England, to procure foreign invasion, and other similar offences. The only point which could be proved against him was that when Cobham told him that if he would use his influence to further the peace between England and Spain, he should be paid for his services by the Court of Spain, he replied

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“When I see the money, I will tell you more.” Raleigh admitted that he had listened to the proposals of Cobham, but he denied that he had ever favoured the Spanish faction. He complained that Cobham, the only witness against him, did not give his evidence personally, and was not produced. “Let Lord Cobham be sent for,” said he “call my accuser before my face, and I have done! Charge him on his soul, and on his allegiance to the king; and if he affirm it, let me be taken to be guilty.”

The Attorney-general, the celebrated Sir Edward Coke, conducted the case against Raleigh with such asperity as called forth reprobation from all parties. Raleigh said “Your words cannot condemn me; my innocence is my defence. Prove *one* of those things wherewith you have charged me, and I will confess the whole indictment, and that I am the horriblest traitor that ever lived, and worthy to be crucified with a thousand cruel torments.” To this Coke replied “Nay, I will prove all!—thou art a monster! thou hast an English face, but a Spanish heart. Now you must have money. Aremberg was no sooner in England, (I charge thee, Raleigh), but thou incitest Cobham to go unto him, and to deal with him for money to bestow on discontented persons to raise rebellion in the kingdom.”—“Let me answer for myself,” said the prisoner, “Thou shalt not!” fiercely replied the Attorney-general. Cecil, who was one of the commissioners, here interposed, and begged Coke to allow Raleigh to speak. This so offended “Mr. At-

torney," that he "sate down in a chafe, and would speak no more, until the commissioners urged and entreated him, when, after much ado, he went on.

He applied the most scurrilous epithets to the illustrious prisoner, who, after listening to his vituperation for some time, observed to him, "You speak indiscreetly, barbarously, and uncivilly." Coke replied "I want words to express the viperous treasons." Raleigh's answer was very sarcastic, "I think you want words indeed, for you have spoken one thing half a dozen times." This was evidently true, for the Attorney-general, instead of denying it or offering any remark to justify his tautology, took refuge in personal abuse, to which he was much inclined. "Thou art an odious fellow," he exclaimed, "thy name is hateful to all England for thy pride." Raleigh's smart repartee provoked Coke to expressions still more offensive and unbecoming.

Concerning the moral guilt of Raleigh with regard to the plot for which he was tried, opinions widely differ. But if he were morally guilty, his guilt was never legally proved, consequently his condemnation was illegal. Early in the reign of Edward III. statutes were enacted providing that in establishing cases of high treason, the testimony of two credible witnesses, who should be brought face to face with the prisoner, was necessary. This was pleaded by Raleigh. Coke, in general terms, said that the law was altered: when, or by whom, or how, he did not say; he merely declared that the crown could not

stand a year upon the king his master's head, if a traitor could not be condemned upon circumstances. He thus, either from obsequiousness to the king, or vindictiveness towards Raleigh, established a precedent which afterwards was quoted by unscrupulous judges and advocates, who aimed more at proving state prisoners guilty than at eliciting truth and doing justice. His conduct at Raleigh's trial is the greatest blot on the memory of Coke, who must ever be regarded as one of the most eminent lawyers. We may think lightly of his coarse invective, when we remember that, in those days, refinement of expression was not sought after in controversy. But it is impossible to acquit so distinguished a lawyer from a wilful and malicious perversion of justice in the case of Sir Walter Raleigh.

When a verdict of "guilty" was returned by the jury, Raleigh remarked "They must do as they are directed." He was sentenced to death, and his property was confiscated. The day for his execution was not fixed, and he was, in the meantime, remanded to the Tower, where for twelve years he remained a prisoner. His wife and son were allowed to reside with him. His second son, Carew, was born in the Tower in 1604. Raleigh found solace in music, poetry, painting, chemistry, and literature. His "History of the World" was all written in the Tower. The materials were supplied by friends, of whom he still had many. Amongst his admirers and visitors, was the heir apparent, Henry, Prince of Wales, who is said to



SIR WALTER RALEIGH STUDYING CHEMISTRY IN THE TOWER.

have observed, that none but his father would keep such a bird in such a cage. The Prince died on the 6th of November, 1612. In 1614, Raleigh's "History of the World" was published, and in the following year he regained his liberty, through the interest of Villiers, the king's favorite, whose good graces he gained by a present of fifteen hundred pounds.

Raleigh was no sooner free again than he proposed an expedition to Guiana "that mighty, rich, and beautiful empire," containing "the great and golden city, which the Spaniards call *El Dorado*." James would neither engage his services, nor assist him in the undertaking; it is even said that he informed the Spanish ambassador of Raleigh's designs.

So sanguine was Raleigh that he embarked the whole of his own and his wife's fortune in fitting out a fleet to South America. At this time, Sir Ralph Winwood was secretary of state, and he used his influence to procure for Raleigh the rank of admiral of the fleet, and a royal commission authorizing him to found an English settlement in Guiana. But the expedition met with determined opposition from the Spaniards, who had received information long before of Raleigh's designs.

Since Raleigh's visit to Guiana, the Spaniards had established a settlement there; and James gave him and his captain strict injunctions not to molest them, or to interfere with any of the Spanish settlements.

It was a most inauspicious time for Raleigh, or for any other Englishman, to undertake an expedition to

any part of the New World. The Spaniards were jealous of other nations, and especially jealous of the English, by whom they had suffered many defeats; and James was anxious to propitiate the Spanish court, in order that his son Charles, the Prince of Wales, might marry the Infanta.

With a fleet of fourteen ships, Raleigh left Plymouth on the 13th of August, 1617, and reached his destination in November. He sent Keymis, his captain, with five of the largest ships, up the Oronoco, and gave him instructions with reference to the locality of the valuable mine. The captain proceeded up the river according to Raleigh's direction. The Spaniards had been on the look-out for an English fleet; and accordingly they, in the night, attacked the five ships as they passed Fort St. Thomas. The English acted on the defensive and defeated the enemy; but not content with this, they attacked the fort and captured it; they then plundered the town. The governor of St. Thomas's was a relative of the Spanish ambassador in London; he was killed in the conflict, as was also Raleigh's son.

The search for the mine proved—as no doubt Raleigh expected it would prove—fruitless. Keymis and his men, who had encountered much opposition from the Spaniards, and innumerable difficulties incidental to such an enterprise, rejoined Sir Walter, after an absence from him of about two months. A violent quarrel ensued between Raleigh and Keymis. Of course it is impossible to say who was most

blameworthy, or what was the main cause of the quarrel. Recriminations reached such a pitch that the captain, in the heat of passion, committed suicide. The men were mutinous; and altogether Raleigh was so discouraged that he resolved to return to England.

He reached Plymouth in March, 1618. Some weeks previous to this, Gondamar, the Spanish Ambassador, contrived, by representing that Raleigh had "broken the sacred peace betwixt the two kingdoms," to have a proclamation issued against him. In the proclamation, the king declared his utter dislike and detestation of the violence and excesses committed upon the territories of his dear brother of Spain, and invited all who could give information on the subject to communicate it personally to the Privy Council.

As soon as Raleigh reached Plymouth, his friends told him of the proclamation, warned him of his danger, and urged him to escape; but so confident was he of the justice of his cause, that he brought his ship, the *Destiny*, to her moorings, sent his sails ashore, and set off for London. Before he had proceeded more than twenty miles, he was arrested by Sir Lewis Stukley, and obliged to return to Plymouth. Stukley seems to have connived at, if he did not plan, the escape of Raleigh to France; but, after deliberating, Raleigh resolved not to attempt it, and he was therefore conducted to London. On his arrival he was so staggered at the charges which his enemies had raked up against him, that he readily listened to proposals

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for his escape from the country. In this scheme he was encouraged by Stukley, whose aim was evidently to entrap him.

On the 10th of August, 1618, Raleigh was arrested at Greenwich, and imprisoned in the Tower. Since his return to England, he had been a prisoner, but in his own house. There can be but little doubt that the scheme of his escape from England, was one designed by his enemies to ruin him.

He was not brought to trial on the charges made against him. On the 28th of October, he was brought into the Court of the King's Bench, and told that for the last fifteen years he had, in the eye of the law, been a dead man; and might at any moment have been led to the scaffold; and that as new offences had stirred up his Majesty's justice to enforce what the law had formerly cast upon him, justice must take its course. The only favor that could be shewn him was, that he should on the following morning be beheaded, instead of hanged. He pleaded that his last commission from the king, implied pardon for the offences of which he had been pronounced guilty; but the plea was over-ruled.

At night, he gave to one of his attendants the following lines, for his own epitaph:—

“ Even such is time, that takes on trust
Our youth, our joys, our all we have,
And pays us but with age and dust;
Who in the dark and silent grave,

HIS EXECUTION.

When we have wander'd all our way
Shuts up the story of our days!
But from this earth, this grave, this dust,
The Lord shall raise me up, I trust."

According to some, the piece called "The Farewell," was written by Raleigh, in his last hours; but this is evidently erroneous, as it has been clearly proved that the poem was in print ten years before Raleigh died.

He was executed in the Old Palace Yard, Westminster. His demeanour on the scaffold was calm and dignified. In his speech he protested that he had not promoted the death of the Earl of Essex, but that he had wept for him. After he had bidden farewell to his friends around him, he asked the executioner to shew him the axe with which he was to be decollated. As the man did not immediately comply, Raleigh said "I pr'ythee let me see it; dost thou think that I am afraid of it?" When it was shewn him, he passed his finger over the edge of it and remarked to the sheriff, "This is a sharp medicine, but it is a cure for all diseases." He was asked which way he wished his head to lie on the block, his answer was, "If the heart be right, it matters not which way the head is laid."

When the executioner was about to blindfold him, he refused to let him do so, and assured him that it was unnecessary. "Think you," said he, "I fear the shadow of the axe when I fear not the axe itself?"

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

His head was by two strokes severed from his body, and it was afterward obtained by his widow ; she bequeathed it to his son Carew, who, in 1659, became governor of Jersey. He died in 1666, and his father's head was buried in his grave. Sir Walter's body was buried in St. Margaret's church, Westminster.

It is no easy matter to form a just estimate of the character of Raleigh. Elizabeth's court was notorious for intrigue ; James's still more so for profligacy. It is from writers who were cotemporary with Raleigh, that his subsequent biographers derive the information by which their judgments are formed. His ability is acknowledged by all. "Authors," says one writer, "are perplexed under what topic to place him ; whether statesman, seaman, soldier, chemist, or chronologer, for in all these he did excel ; and it still remains a dispute whether the age he lived in was more obliged to his pen or his sword ; the one being busy in conquering the new, the other in so bravely describing the old world."

Raleigh was ever ready to assist men of genius and earning. When he was in the zenith of his greatness, he visited the poet Spenser, at whose residence he remained several days. It was on this occasion that the poet read the manuscript of his "Fairy Queen" to Raleigh, who was so pleased with it, that although only the first three books were complete, he wished it to be immediately published. To this Spenser agreed, and he therefore accompanied Raleigh from Ireland to

INTRODUCTION OF TOBACCO.

England. On Spenser's arrival in London, Raleigh introduced him to the queen, who shortly afterwards granted him a pension of fifty pounds.

Raleigh was also the patron of Richard Hakluyt, who, in 1605, was made prebendary of Westminster. It is said that Raleigh personally assisted him in the compilation of the celebrated "Collection of English Voyages," which he published in three folio volumes.

He availed himself of the services of Thomas Heriot, the mathematician, who accompanied him to America, and wrote an account of the discovery of Virginia. He invited Heriot to become an inmate of his house, and he paid him a salary for his instruction in the mathematics. It has been maintained that Descartes derived his "pretended discoveries in Algebra" from Heriot's "*Artis Analytical Praxis.*"

Sir Walter Raleigh is, by some, said to have been the first to introduce tobacco into this country; but others say that it was introduced in 1586, by Ralph Lane, the commander of Raleigh's Virginian colony. Three others have each the credit of introducing into this country

~The Indian weed, unknown to ancient times,
Nature's choice gift. whose acrimonious fume
Extracts superfluous juices, and refines
The blood distempered from its noxious salts."

The three to whom we allude, are Sir John

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

Hawkins, who, in 1565, brought home a small sample, which was regarded merely as a drug; Sir Francis Drake, in whose ship Lane came to England with his tobacco; and Captain Greenville.

There is a popular story to the effect that, one day, as Sir Walter was indulging in "a smoke," his servant had occasion to go to him. He was shocked at seeing his master almost enveloped in smoke, through which fire was perceptible. He ran for a bucket of water, and discharged its contents over Sir Walter. The story would not end well if we omitted to state that Sir Walter laughed heartily at his servant's unceremonious and effectual manner of putting a pipe out; and explained to him that he knew of an easier and equally effective method.

There is another popular story which we must not omit. Raleigh was one day telling the queen all he had heard and seen of the properties and virtues of tobacco; and to awaken her interest, he told her that he could ascertain the exact weight of the smoke which issued from his pipe. The idea of weighing smoke appeared so absurd to the queen, that she laid a wager that he could not prove his assertion true. He accepted the wager, weighed some tobacco, put it into his pipe, puffed away till he required another "charge," then weighed the ashes left in the pipe. Of course the queen was obliged to admit that the difference between the weight of the ashes and that of the tobacco had "gone off in smoke." She paid her bet, and observed, "Many labourers in the fire

turn gold into smoke, you have turned smoke into gold."

Sir Walter Raleigh was the first who introduced potatoes into Ireland. He brought them from America, and planted them on his own estate at Youghall, in 1586. They were not introduced into Britain till many years afterwards.

Tradition gives to Sir Walter Raleigh the honor of planting the first orange trees that ever grew in this country. Quaint old Fuller mentions the tradition. The place where Raleigh planted the trees was Beddington, near Croydon. Beddington belonged to Sir Francis Carew, a relative of Raleigh's. In Fuller's time, the trees were a hundred years old.

Raleigh contributed greatly to improve the English language, not only by patronizing learned men, but also by his own literary efforts. His name cannot be omitted in any list of our earlier poets, although his poetry is, comparatively speaking, forgotten. As an historian, he was superior to any Englishman who had preceded him. As a soldier, he was not excelled by the bravest of his contemporaries. He was trained "not part, but wholly gentleman, wholly soldier." As a seaman, his intrepidity and enterprise have never been exceeded by the most intrepid and enterprising of his countrymen. As a courtier, he was ambitious, and his ambition led to his downfall. From a popular anecdote concerning him, it seems that when he commenced his career as a courtier, he had his misgivings as to the ultimate result. He wrote on a

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

window, so as to attract the queen's attention “Fain would I climb, but that I fear to fall.” The queen wrote beneath it “If thy heart fail thee, climb not at all.” He climbed, and he fell. His fate, whilst it reflects lasting shame on the pusillanimous monarch who sacrificed him to gratify Spanish malice and his own private enmity, teaches a useful lesson. Had Raleigh not lowered himself by showing his jealousy of the Earl of Essex, by treating him as a rival, and by endeavouring to lessen him in the estimation of the queen, it is probable that James, who was, with all his faults, an admirer of learning, would have been glad to patronize him.

Amongst the absurd charges which the enemies of Raleigh brought against him, was that of being inclined to Atheism. Relative to this Sewell says:—

“An Atheist sailor is a monstrous thing,
More wonderful than all old ocean breeds.
But I will witness for my Raleigh's faith;
Yes, I have seen him, when the tempest raged,
When, from the precipice of mountain-waves,
All hearts have trembled at the gulf below,
He, with a steady, supplicating look,
Displayed his trust in that tremendous Power
Who curbs the billows, and cuts short the wings
Of the rude whirl wind in its midway course,
And bids the madness of the waves to cease.”

Raleigh must have been more honest or less discreet than Cecil, for Cecil, whose enmity towards the unfortunate Earl of Essex had been notorious, contrived to be one of the first Englishmen on whom James

CONCLUSION.

bestowed his favor. It is not improbable that those courtiers who had been envious of, and in opposition to, the Earl of Essex, made Raleigh their scape-goat, by leading James to believe that Essex perished through the machinations of Sir Walter. There is no evidence to shew that Raleigh made any effort to procure the pardon of his noble rival when he was in disgrace, or to save his life when he was under sentence of death. On the other hand, we regret to find that it would be easier to shew that he did what he could to procure the execution of the sentence, which, according to the rigour of the time, had justly been passed upon the earl. But "to err is human." Raleigh had his failings, and those failings were, no doubt, magnified by those who, in his lifetime, were his rivals for equal favor, and by those who, after his death, were anxious to vindicate the justice of James and his ministers.

Of Raleigh it may be said that his virtues were his own, his vices those of the age in which he lived. Amongst the large number of great men who were cotemporary with him, it were easy to name many who had all Raleigh's failings, and many from which he was free, but it would be difficult to name many whose accomplishments were so varied, and whose ability was so great.

Raleigh's principal work, "the History of the World," was never completed by him. It is said that the concluding sentences were written by him after he was sentenced to death. They are certainly

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

very appropriate to such an occasion :—“ It is therefore death alone that can suddenly make a man know himself ; he tells the proud and insolent that they are but abjects, and humbles them at the instant, makes them cry, complain, and repent ; yea, even to hate their forepast happiness. He takes the account of the rich, and proves him a begger, which hath interest in nothing but in the gravel that fills his mouth. He holds a glass before the eyes of the most beautiful, and makes them see their deformity and rottenness, and they acknowledge it. O, eloquent, just, and mighty Death ! whom none could advise, thou hast persuaded ; what none hath dared, thou hast done ; and whom all the world hath flattered, thou alone hast cast out of the world and despised ; thou hast drawn together all the far-stretched greatness, all the pride, cruelty, and ambition of man, and covered it all over with these two narrow words—*Hic jacet.*

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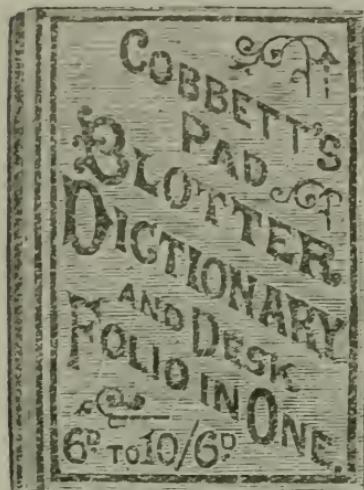
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